

## ITALIAN WHITE

You recall  
when I wanted to be like the Italians  
and painted the bathroom  
Italian white.

Inexperienced  
in these matters, I used enamel instead  
of latex, and stunk us  
out of the house.

Older & wiser  
I always use waterbase paints now like  
when I painted the porch  
Spanish red.

## TELEPHONES

I am crazy  
and afraid of telephones  
terribly awkward in restaurants  
painfully shy around strangers.  
I fall down stairs to impress women  
forget the names of everyone I meet  
and have a difficult time  
remembering the details of my own  
life.

Available subjects for small talk  
are limited to minor aches and pains  
redundant annoyances  
I take bad weather personally  
and wince when I smile.

I will never call you up  
to make a luncheon date  
nor will I invite you over  
for snooker, chips and dip  
I can't pronounce the names of french wines  
and if I ever drown I'm  
certain it will be in a hot tub.

What's your excuse?  
You're attractive, well dressed  
you have marketable skills and  
are gainfully employed in a growing industry.  
You are blessed in the social graces  
and know how to operate food service machines.

So what's your problem? Are you not  
revered in your profession?  
Admired by your colleagues?  
Isn't it true you balance  
an active family life  
half a dozen rewarding hobbies  
armies of friends, while fully meeting  
the demands of a challenging career  
and still find time  
for personal development, athletic  
endeavors, quiet introspection?  
I'm half crazy, and totally incompetent.  
What's your excuse?

#### BUSCH GARDENS

You smell the beer  
as you approach  
on the freeway. It's free  
the admission and the beer  
but you might pay  
a buck to park.

They have exotic birds from  
all over the globe  
flaming red  
orange and pink flamingos  
coke bottle blue toucans  
and an amphitheatre  
where a girl  
in a hostess uniform  
gets a spectrum of parrots  
to mouth off at her.

There are beer pavillions  
at every turn,  
that's the real attraction,  
handing out big dixie cups  
of free foamy brew  
and everyone  
walks around  
smashed in the hot sun  
enjoying the birds.